

1920



Long

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(SYDNEY H. LONG, M.D.)

FOR THE

Rural District of St. Faiths,

Together with the Report of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Sydney H. Long, M.D., Cantab.)

FOR THE

Rural District of St. Faiths, Norfolk,

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

BIRTHS.

There were 239 Births registered in the District during the year, of which number 221 were legitimate and 18 illegitimate. This is equivalent to a birth rate of 24·0 as compared to 15·7 last year.

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered in the District was 155, of which number 23 were transferable. This is equal to a nett death rate of 13·2 as compared with 13·3 in 1919.

PRESENT POPULATION.

Population of District is approximately 9929.

WATER.

The supply of water is fairly satisfactory as to sufficiency and quality. In the parishes adjoining Norwich the service from the Norwich Water Works mains is increasing, and in the other parts of the District every precaution is taken to guard against contamination by surface water, or other causes. There has been no report of a nuisance from this cause during the year, and no analysis of water has been taken. Two wells gave out completely owing to subsidence, one at Hellesdon and the other at Sprowston; the former has been deepened and sufficient water found, the other case is being dealt with. The rivers and streams are, as far as can be gathered, free of pollution.

The pan system of scavenging is in vogue in the District, but a few bins still remain and these are being done away with whenever an opportunity occurs. The number converted to the water carriage system is negligible. With regard to scavenging, Gt. Witchingham remains at present the only parish in which an organization exists to deal with the matter parochially. In the other parishes the work is done by owners and occupiers in a satisfactory manner. Wroxham, having regard to its rapid development of late years, must not be lost sight of in this connection.

The general report on the sanitary inspection of the District by the Inspector of Nuisances, given on page 11, shews that a considerable amount of work of a routine nature has been done, but there is nothing of outstanding interest.

I have nothing of importance to report in connection with the milk supply of the District, which as usual has been adequate and wholesome, and the same may be said of meat. Two cases of unwholesome meat have been dealt with during the year, and it has not been found necessary to take any action under Sec. 117 of the P.H.A., 1875. The slaughter houses, of which there are 13, are well kept and suitable, two having been built this year and are up-to-date

Taken in the aggregate there was a slight decrease in the number of Infectious Diseases notified, but there has been an increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis notified. A great number of bacteriological examinations have been made of "contacts." During the year no case of encephalitis lethargica ("sleeping sickness") has occurred in the District. Bacteriological examinations are carried out either by a local pathologist or the Clinical Research Association, London.

Acting in conjunction with the County Authorities I have issued a number of Exclusion from School Notices in cases where children have been notified as suffering from Infectious Diseases, or where they have been "contacts."

The housing conditions are improving slowly, the Rent Restrictions Act, which makes it compulsory for a landlord to put the house in a good and habitable state of repair, before raising the rent, having some slight influence. The houses now being erected by the Rural District Council will go far to remedy the shortage which exists. Since my report last year considerable progress has been made with the building scheme. I am pleased to say that eight to ten small houses have been built by private owners, and there is about the same number in course of erection.

There is still overcrowding in the District, and I do not see any other means of dealing with it except by building, although I understand some Councils are hesitating to proceed with their schemes owing to the cost. One reason of the present overcrowding is that young married couples, being unable to get houses, either in this District or elsewhere, are living with their parents. The trouble is neither a transitory nor a local one and I hope the Council will see fit to proceed with the new houses with all speed.

I have inspected all the houses now under course of erection by the Council and, generally speaking, I think the designs are good. I am pleased to find that the Committee, in selecting sites, has not forgotten the dust nuisance of the present day, and that when it has been necessary to build on a main road, as at Horsham St. Faiths, the houses have been set well back from the road.

Horsford.—The bedroom ventilation in the four pairs of cottages at Horsford is entirely inadequate. As erected, only one pane, 14 by 16½ inches, of the window is made to open on a pivot downwards. At least one casement should be made to open, if only as a means of escape in case of fire. It is unfortunate that the back walls of these houses were not extended a foot or two higher; had this been done the corresponding bedroom would not have been so cut into by the roof. The wicket to the coal shed in these houses is placed too high. I am glad to find that all the houses are being supplied with earth closets, but I consider that all these should be fitted with a window, as in the case of the Wroxham houses. Except that there are soak-away dead wells for slop water in connection with these latter houses, there is no system of drainage in connection with any of the houses. I hope the Committee has not forgotten the requirements of Salhouse, in which parish the need for workmen's dwellings is more acute than in any other parish in the District.

Felthorpe.—Two pairs of cottages near Church, as above, except that walls are of rough stucco which is not so good as brick.

Newton St. Faiths.—Two pairs, about half built, very low walls.

Horsham St. Faiths.—Three pairs near Workhouse, set well back from high road. No adverse criticism.

Haynford.—Two pairs, nearly completed. Nothing to criticise.

Frettenham.—Only just commenced laying foundations.

Wroxham.—Two pairs near Church. Four pairs near "Castle" Public House.

These are the best I saw, and the only houses with any drainage (to soak away). There is good ventilation in all the bedrooms and the earth closets are each fitted with a window, as should be the case always.

The four cases of overcrowding mentioned in the Inspector of Nuisances Report were found in the following parishes :—

At Crostwick near the old Toll Bar there is a double dwelling occupied by two families both very large, and both took in lodgers. After some trouble the lodgers were removed and the nuisance abated.

At Salhouse there is a family living in Bear's Grove. The man a few years since was taken to a sanatorium but has returned to his work again as a shepherd. This house had only two bedrooms; the owner was seen and the result is that one good bed and one living room has been added to the house.

At Sprowston (Porter's Loke) three families were found living in one house. This was a very bad case and received attention.

At St. Faith's, the part known as Back Street, insanitary surroundings were reported and I made a special inspection there. A great quantity of refuse was found near the houses; this was owing to the fact that the open space was entirely inadequate for dealing with house refuse and other matter. On my recommendation additional land (which is available near) was purchased by the owners and added to the houses, and a much better state of sanitation now exists.

At the Elm Farm, St. Faith's there occurred four cases of diptheria. I have made a thorough inspection of the drainage and surroundings, and recommended certain alterations. The owner (Mr. J. T. Spurrell) has given orders for the alterations to be made, and these will no doubt be carried out shortly.

The duties of Inspector of Nuisances are still being carried out by Mr. Thos. Fox who continues to do his work to my entire satisfaction.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have now been acting for over a year and have done valuable work in assisting necessitous cases. Four expectant and 17 nursing mothers have been helped, and 22 children under 5 years. Each case has been submitted to me and it speaks well for the care of the Committee that I have not found it advisable to refuse one case.

Signed,

SYDNEY H. LONG, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

31, Surrey Street, Norwich,
April, 1921.

ASSISTED HOUSING SCHEME.

PARTICULARS OBTAINED FROM ARCHITECTS.

Parish.	Present state of scheme.	Approximate date of completion at present rate of progress.
Sprowston (Barker's Land)	1 pair roofed in. 1 pair wall plate laid ready for roof.	1 pair end of May. 1 pair end of June.
Sprowston (Nth. Walsham Road)	Well being sunk. Building not commenced.	Unable to give date owing to difficulty in obtaining water.
Attlebridge	Well being sunk.	—
Alderford	Well being sunk.	—
Gt. Witchingham (Heath Lane)	Contract not yet signed.	—
Gt. Witchingham (Lenwade)	Well sunk.	—
Felthorpe (Small Hope)	Practically complete.	Ready for occupation.
Felthorpe (Church Lane)	Practically complete.	Ready for occupation.
Horsford	Eight houses ready for painting.	Will be finished about 14th May.
Salhouse	Not commenced.	
Wroxham (Castle) 8 houses	2 roofed in and plastered. 2 roofed in. 4 brickwork 4 ft. out of ground.	April 30th, 1921. May 30th, 1921. July 30th, 1921.
Wroxham (Church) 4 houses	4 plastered and being painted inside; outside finished. Fencing, &c. complete.	April 30th, 1921.
Horstead	1 pair up to window sill line. 1 pair foundations in.	It was hoped to get these six houses finished by end of year, but at slow rate of receiving bricks from the Govt. it is impossible to state.

ASSISTED HOUSING SCHEME—*Continued.*

Parish.	Present state of scheme.	Approximate date of completion at present rate of progress.
Haynford	Staircases remain to be fixed. Distempering, and whitening to finish. Fences and gates and one coat more paint required outside.	About 14th May.
Hellesdon	Staircases to fix. Distempering, etc., to be done. Fencing and gates and part of painting and plastering unfinished.	Difficulty with plasterers. About 7th May.
Horsham St. Faith's	1 pair complete except distempering and painting. 1 pair plastered and woodwork completed. One of these houses to fit up and distempering and painting to do. 1 pair now plastering out.	About 14th May.
Newton St. Faith's Frettenham	Now being roofed in. Well sunk and site fenced in.	About 30th June. Some labour being transferred to this site from Newton in about 14 days. Difficulty in getting workmen for this locality.
Drayton	Four up to roof and four up to first floor. Well nearly finished.	Unable to state.
Spixworth	Two houses foundations laid. Two up to first floor joints. Well sunk.	Unable to state.

TABLE. XV.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1920.

(Provisional figures. Provisional populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under 1 Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes of Death.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England & Wales	25·4	12·4	0·01	0·00	0·19	0·04	0·11	0·15	0·28	0·48	8·3	80	24·3	92·2	6·6	1·2	
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Popula- tions exceeding 50,000)	26·2	12·5	0·01	0·00	0·22	0·04	0·14	0·16	0·31	0·43	10·4	85	31·3	92·2	7·1	0·7	
148 Smaller Towns (Census Popula- tions 20,000-50,000)	24·9	11·3	0·02	0·00	0·19	0·03	0·10	0·14	0·27	0·38	7·8	80	16·5	93·2	5·3	1·5	
London	26·5	12·4	0·01	0·00	0·22	0·05	0·17	0·22	0·30	0·47	9·5	75	46·8	91·2	8·6	0·2	

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1920 and Previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births		Total Death Regis- tered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District				
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number 6.	Rate 7.	of Non- residents registered in the District 8	of Residents not registered in the District 9	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number 4.	Rate 5.					Number 10.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births 11.	Number 12.	Rate 13.
1910	11,663	224	.	20.8	175	15.6	..	..	21	93	136	12.1
1911	10,807	215	..	19.9	171	15.7	..	.	15	69	124	11.3
1912	10,849	216	..	19.9	175	16.0	50	3	14	64	135	12.4
1913	10,910	229	..	21.0	193	16.7	39	14	22	96	168	15.1
1914	10,952	213	..	19.4	161	14.6	41	10	24	112	130	11.9
1915	9,493	206	..	18.6	230	24.2	99	6	14	68	137	14.4
1919	10,371	163	..	15.7	199	19.1	61	11	15	69	138	13.3
1920	9,929	239	..	24.0	155	15.6	23	7	19	79	132	13.2

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 48,933.

Total Population at all ages ... 10,807

Number of inhabited houses ... 2,497

Average number of persons per house... 4.7

At Census of 1911. " " " "

The Union Workhouse is within the District. The Norwich City Asylum is also within the District, and it receives persons of unsound mind from without the District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1920.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	PARISH NOTIFIED IN																							TOTAL	
	Beeston.	Booton.	Catton.	Croftwick.	Drayton.	St. Faith's.	Felthorpe.	Haynford.	Haveringland.	Hellesdon.	Honingham.	Horsford.	Horstead.	Morton.	Rackheath.	Ringland.	Salhouse.	Spixworth.	Sprowston.	Swanington.	Taverham.	Gt. Wicthingham.	Wroxham.		HellesdonAsylum.
Diphtheria	1	14	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	...
Measles	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia	1	...	4	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Others forms of Tuberculosis	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria
Dysentry	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	1	2	2	1	19	1	2	1	1	5	2	5	2	2	5	4	1	4	1	1	1	1	13	85

Causes of Death during the Year 1920.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.	
	Males.	Females.
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	4
Enteric Fever .. ..	..	1
Influenza .. ..	..	1
Whooping Cough .. ..	..	1
Erysipelas .. ..	..	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculous)	4	6
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	1	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	5	8
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	..	1
Organic Heart Disease ..	3	8
Bronchitis	6	7
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	3	4
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	1	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	2
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	3
Parturition (apart from Puerperal Fever) .. ..	..	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	6	3
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .. ..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases ..	27	20
All Causes	58	74

Report of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year 1920.

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Population (estimated)	10,307
Complaints received	16
Nuisances detected without complaint	123
Nuisances abated	..	..	..	134
Notices served	..	..	..	80
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	26
Summonses taken out	.	..	..	1
Convictions	..	..	..	1
Cottages inspected	..	..	..	60
Slaughter houses inspected	..	..	..	11
„ „ new erected	..	..	..	2
Bake offices inspected	..	..	..	6
Cowsheds inspected	..	..	..	51
„ repaired	..	..	..	5
„ new erected	..	..	..	2
Workshops inspected	..	..	..	14
Filthy houses cleansed	..	..	..	2
Houses disinfected	..	..	..	45
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	4
Houses placed in habitable repair	..	..	..	28
Houses closed	..	..	..	Nil.
Houses erected for which water certificate sought	..	..	..	8
Certificates granted	..	..	..	8
„ deferred	..	..	..	Nil.

Wells and pumps repaired	..	..	..	9
,, closed	..	..	..	Nil.
Houses connected with sewers	..	..	..	Nil.
Earth, pail, or improved privies constructed	..	..	..	17
Drains and cesspools emptied	..	..	..	20
,, ,, repaired or new laid	..	..	..	4
Animals improperly kept	..	..	..	3
Heaps of manure removed	..	..	..	10
Samples of water taken for analysis	..	..	..	Nil.
Unsound meat condemned	..	..	..	2
Canal boats inspected	..	..	..	4
Dangerous chimneys repaired	..	..	..	6
Petrol licences granted	..	..	..	6
Knackers' licences granted	..	..	..	3
Carbide	..	..	..	4

THOS. FOX.

Inspector of Nuisances.

